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### Go Greased Lightnin'

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 12 students perform We Go Together during their final production of Grease on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The school's Grade 11 and 12 students put on four performances of the musical from Jan. 16 to 19. See more photos on page 2. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## The impossible dream; memories of Don Cameron

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

*To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
And to run where the brave dare not go*

These were the opening words for one of the first songs that aired publicly on Canoe FM in 2003; *The Impossible Dream*, selected by Canoe FM founding father, Don Cameron. A founder, a teddy bear, a major supporter of the Haliburton Highlands; those are some of the many terms used to describe Cameron, who passed

away peacefully on Jan. 17 at the age of 88. "If it wasn't for Don Cameron, there would be no Canoe FM," said Dave Allen, the sales specialist at the station.

In 2002, a hyper-local radio station in the Haliburton Highlands was nothing more than a dream. "There were a lot of naysayers," said Greg Roe, host of It's

Only Rock and Roll on Canoe FM. "It took a long time for us to be accepted in this community."

Despite the red-tape and backlash from the town, three strong-minded mavericks powered through to follow the dream; Dave Sovereign, Jack Hewitt, and Don  
see CANOE page 4

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Grease is the word

Brooklyn Sidsworth sings *Freddy My Love* during HHSS’ final performance of *Grease* on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The school’s Grade 11 and 12 students put on four performances of the musical from Jan. 16 to 19. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Ella Carl, Grade 12 HHSS student playing Rizzo, sings *Look At Me I’m Sandra Dee*.



Ella Carl, playing Sandy, sings *It’s Raining On Prom Night*.



Owen Nicholls played Danny in HHSS’ final performance of *Grease*.



HHSS students dance on prom night in *Grease*.



# Winter: 'tis the season for water main breaks in HE

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Despite a significant Boxing Day water main break, Highlands East council has faith in the Cardiff drinking water system's integrity.

During its Jan. 19 public meeting, township council heard about a "significant" water main break that disrupted service Dec. 26 to Hemlock Street residents.

Brittany McCaw, the town's deputy CAO/treasurer, said staff were able to locate the break and isolate a portion of

the system rather quickly.

The firm McNroy Maines was contacted on the day of the break and completed the repair with staff from the town's Environment department.

A boil water advisory was in effect but has since been lifted.

Councillor Cam McKenzie said staff performed really well in getting the water main repaired.

"I know it's not going to be a cheap fix," he said. "But I think it was important for the residents who were impacted that our staff were able to get that organized and get it done with minimum disruption."

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said the water system in question was installed just seven years ago. He questioned whether the whole system should be revisited.

"Is this a sign of things to come?" he said. "Are we looking at the beginning of a lot of challenges in the system?"

He suggested the whole municipal water system be inspected and assessed.

McCaw said water main breaks and subsequent repairs occur throughout the year. Basically, it's a fact of life. Warm weather followed by a fast freeze can cause a pipe to break, she said.

"We can actually go back and ask staff to review the last few years of the number of breaks," she said. "It's actually information that is contained within our annual reporting."

McKenzie said the new system is an improvement over the old one. Public Works staff are probably getting only a quarter of the calls for repairs that had been received before the new system was put in.

"That's just a guess," he said. "But it used to happen on a really, really re-occurring basis. Now, maybe two (calls) a year. It isn't like it used to be."

## Compromised culvert to be replaced in Highlands East

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A culvert on Earles Road in Highlands East will be replaced with a concrete deck slab.

Highlands East council was presented with four options during its Jan. 19 public meeting on how to repair the culvert. Though only a single property is cut off by the compromised culvert, the work is an emergency situation.

Earles Road culvert is presently not passable to property Lot A Concession 15 for safety, risk, and liability, and requires a full replacement.

The culvert replacement was previously budgeted at \$250,000. Costs for fuel, material, and material availability have increased the price of the work beyond the budgeted amount.

McCaw said the additional costs will be included in the 2023 capital budget.

The municipality tapped Planmac Engineering Inc. of Mississauga to look into the replacement and to provide options and recommendations on moving forward with the project.

After extensive review and evaluation, engineers provided four options of how to go about replacing the culvert, said Brittany McCaw, the town's deputy CAO/treasurer.

Corrugated steel pipe arch culvert with a closed bottom could be installed to shore up the site's integrity at a cost of \$291,500. The engineers suggested the use of a structural steel plate culvert with an open bottom with a price tag of \$447,700. The possibility of replacing the Earles Road culvert with a prefabricated modular bridge was also offered for consideration. The cost to do that was estimated to be \$388,850.

The option recommended by Public Works staff was to use a less-costly concrete deck slab with a price tag of \$267,300.

McCaw said each of the options were evaluated with an eye toward location, management of river flows, mitigating natural, social, and cultural environmental impacts, construction ease and duration, and costs.

The recommended course of remediation involves construction of a precast or cast-in-place concrete deck slab founded on a concrete grade beam.

"This option is unique, though, in the sense that it is not considered to be a common design solution for municipal roads," McCaw said. "It's most likely found on some private logging or mining access roads."

"But due to the fact that it's leading to only one property, it's been recommended."



### Buy In and Win(ner)

Janet O'Neil, left, won the BIA Buy In and Win contest with a winning ballot from Masters Book Store. O'Neil received \$1,500 in gift cards for five BIA businesses: Lockside Trading Co., Foodland, Wind in the Willows Spa, Country Pickin's, and Masters Book Store. O'Neil stands with Kathy Stouffer, Masters Book Store owner, and BIA member David Zilstra. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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# Canoe FM 'would not be the station it is' without Cameron

from page 1

Cameron. "It was really the perfect combination," recalled Roe. "Dave taught broadcasting for years, Jack was the business guy, and Don, well, Don, was the hands-on, 'let's do it' kind of guy."

Cameron became a Haliburton Highlands full-time resident in 1988, after he and his wife, Joan, spent many summers cottaging on Redstone Lake. He was not only heavily involved in the radio station, but also the curling club, Haliburton Legion Branch 129, and local activities such as swimming, fishing, and playing music.

Despite settling into the highlands for his retirement, Cameron would often spend seven days a week at the radio station. "He would do everything, he had his hands in every single part of the radio," said Roxanne Casey, the station manager at Canoe. During the early days, the technology of the radio was slightly more unpredictable than it is now, yet this never deterred Cameron. "I know for a fact that if our signal went down at 3 a.m., Don would be driving up to the tower in Eagle Lake to fix it, that's just who he was," said Roe.

Roxanne Casey shared that she met Cameron in 2003, when she first set foot in Canoe to record a commercial for a previous job she held. "I remember going to speak to Don while I was at the studio, and just saying how great the whole set-up was," she said, "shortly after, he called me and asked me if I wanted to do my own show. I was so nervous, I didn't know what I was doing, but I remember him saying to me very clearly, 'you can do this.'" Casey went on to host the show Women, Weeds, and Wisdom for many years before she became the station manager.

Dave Allen has been with Canoe FM for 20 years in October. "Without Don, I know for a fact I wouldn't be in the area," he reflected, after sharing that he moved to the Haliburton Highlands in 2002, in an attempt to leave the hustle and bustle of the GTA behind. Allen and Cameron became friends after Cameron offered him a job at the station. "I was working in a cottage care job, and I was cov-



Don Cameron was one of the founding fathers of Canoe FM, and establishing it in the Haliburton Highlands. Cameron passed away on Jan. 17 at the age of 88. /Photo from Canoe FM

ered in mud when I went into the interview because it happened so quick. When Don offered me the job, he said 'you can have the job, but do you have any other clothes?'" Allen chuckled. He reflected that many decisions that played into the role he now has in the community are a result of the consideration and kindness shown to him from Cameron; including

his job, where he lives, and his friendships in the place he now calls home. "I was lucky to know him, and honoured to call him a real friend," Allen said.

When asked about Cameron's impact on the community, Casey, Allen, and Roe all said the same thing: a passion for the Haliburton Highlands, and a heart in Canoe FM. "He really believed this could

happen," said Roe, "and he made it happen." In the public statement Canoe FM issued in light of Cameron's passing, they said, "Canoe FM would not be the station it is without the hard work, dedication and love of Don Cameron."

Don Cameron dreamed the impossible dream, and the Haliburton Highlands are all the brighter because of it.

## Naloxone training key to ending the stigma

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

The concept of overdoses - particularly in a rural community - is often something that is pushed under the rug. Yet, while it may seem foreign to some, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) continues to flag overdose alerts for the county, with the most recent being at the beginning of 2023.

"The recent increase in overdoses is troubling, so we're issuing the alert to inform the community to take precautions," said Leslie McLaughlin, the Substances and Harm Reduction Coordinator with the HKPR District Health Unit.

In an attempt to counteract the spike in overdoses, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has started offering free naloxone and anti-stigma training. "This type of training is needed everywhere and for everyone," said Kirstey Dams, community manager of the Cham-

ber. "As a community, we need to come together and give everyone the tools to recognize and overdose and know how to deal with it."

Naloxone is a type of drug that once administered, temporarily counteracts the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids such as fentanyl, morphine, codeine, and heroin (often taken for severe pain) affect specific receptors in the brain. When naloxone is administered, it removes the opioids off the brain receptors, and binds them together instead. The effects of naloxone only last 20-90 minutes though, so it is important to contact 911 for additional support.

The Chamber has partnered with the John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton to present this formal training. The 2-hour session includes details about what an overdose can look like, how a naloxone kit can help, and educates attendees about the truth of substance use. "There are many myths or untruths about substance use that we see in the media, and this training does

an excellent job of dispelling those," said Dams. Each participant leaves the training with their own naloxone kit, and the knowledge for how to use it if necessary.

The first training was held on Jan. 16 at the Chamber offices. It was well attended, and Dams would like to continue offering sessions on a bi-monthly basis around the county, with the next training session being held in March at the Minden Library.

Dams hopes that by offering consistent training around the community, the risks of overdose will diminish for the population. "Seeing and talking about harm reduction supplies and naloxone overdose kits makes them much less intimidating and helps to bridge the gap that often exists between substance users and those who do not use substances," she told the *Echo*.

Dams encourages everyone to take this training, as the reality of overdoses is that they can impact anyone, at any time. "It is not always the vulnerable population we see portrayed in movies," said Dams.

"This is why we appeal to employers and business owners to take this training, as pillars of the community and individuals with influence, it is a great place to stop the stigma."

For more information on the training, follow the Chamber on Facebook and Instagram. If you or someone you know is using drugs that could result in an overdose, please consider the following points presented by the HKPR:

- Test a small amount of drug before you use.
- Never use alone. If you are alone, call the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) virtual safe consumption at 1-888-668-NORS (6677), or use a buddy system and call a friend.
- Call 911 in the event of an overdose.
- Avoid mixing your drugs.
- Keep a naloxone kit on hand. You can get a naloxone kit at most pharmacies and needle exchange sites, as well as training presented by the Chamber.



# Local entrepreneurs open new space

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Two Haliburton businesses, Organic Times Emporium and Rowan and Oak Co., opened the doors to their new space at 5167 County Road 21, just beside Industrial Park Road in Haliburton, on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Avril Copestick moved to Haliburton recently and owns Rowan & Oak Co., a natural bath and body products company. This is her first time owning a storefront.

"Our first week was amazing. Haliburton is such a supportive community, and we're grateful for that as well as all the best wishes and lovely comments we've received this week," Copestick said.

With a background in skin care having studied esthetics, Copestick started Rowan & Oak Co. in 2018 and got her start in Haliburton at the Haliburton County Farmers' Market.

When she met Deborah Lyons, they both realized they were looking for the same thing and decided to operate both businesses out of the same space.

Lyons, owner of Organic Times Emporium, was looking for a new space for her business, which focuses on environmentally safe products.

"Both businesses focus on environmentally safe products; eco friendly, healthy home, unwrapped, upcycled, and supporting local 'makers' as well as creating a beautiful and friendly place for people to shop and mingle," Lyons said.

Lyons has over 20 years of experience owning and operating a health store.

Visit their Facebook pages, Organic Times Emporium and Rowan and Oak, for business hours and more information.

"We both are doing different things, but it all works beautifully. Our focus is very much on local, community and sustainable living wherever we can," Copestick said.



Avril Copestick, left, owner of Rowan and Oak Co. and Deborah Lyons, owner Organic Times Emporium, stand in their new storefront on their opening day on Thursday, Jan. 19. The two local businesses are now located 5167 County Road 21 in Haliburton. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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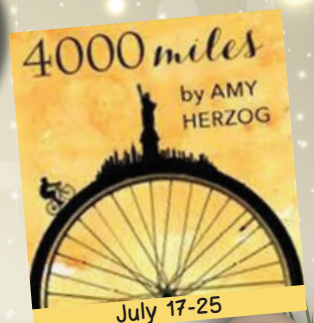


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# points of view



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## Dry January

We're a week past "Blue Monday" now; the supposed hardest day of the year.

Although we were gifted with a beautiful sunny day last Monday, I understand why "Blue Monday" is in January.

We still have a week left of the month, but it feels like it's dragging. I hate to be a downer, but February usually isn't much better.

It's cold, dark, and snowy. We start to see the light of spring by the end of March, but that's still about eight weeks away.

Again, sorry to be a downer.

To keep in the spirit of health-related New Year's resolutions that many and to address the January blues, let's do a January health check-in.

Last week, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) released new alcohol consumption guidelines.

Talk of these guidelines has been muttered around town since; only two alcoholic drinks a week? That's the new maximum to avoid health risks?

That's a bit of a scary reality.

Of all the people I know who drink, I don't know many that only have one or two a week.

One or two a night seems to be the norm.

But, according to CCSA, if you have as little as three to six drinks per week, you have an increased risk of developing cancers such as breast and colon cancer.

Seven drinks a week, your risk of a heart attack or stroke increases drastically.

Any additional drink after that exponentially increases any alcohol-related health risk.

"No matter where you are on the continuum, for your health, less alcohol is better," read the CCSA website.

On the Government of Canada website, there were approximately 15,000

preventable alcohol-related deaths. That's about three times Haliburton's population.

90,000 Canadians could've avoided hospital visits if they consumed the recommended two drinks a week last year. Compared to non-drinkers, drinkers have a life expectancy that is about six years less. Last fall, myself and other members of Rotaract Haliburton Highlands cleaned up our section of road on County Road 21. We do this as a club twice a year, and each time, we are astounded by the amount of empties.

We collected one extra-large garbage bag full of empty beer cans or bottles last fall alone. That's one kilometre of road. And that's only one road in the county. And all of those cans were tossed out car windows between June and October.

It goes without saying; drinking and driving is really horrible. Nearly 12,000 people died last year in Canada from alcohol related accidents.

But on top of putting yourself, your passengers, other drivers, and walkers at risk from driving while intoxicated,

you're also potentially shaving 6 years off your life if you do it regularly.

Is that worth it?

Alcohol is a depressant, which means it disrupts our mental health, too.

Someone told me recently that they were doing "Dry January," which means no alcohol for this month, and they said it helps set them up to be more considerate of their alcohol consumption for the rest of the year.

This stuck out to me when maybe it shouldn't have. After learning about these statistics, it's scary to think that I've only heard one person in the past month say they aren't drinking.

Maybe it's worth it to try and cut back on regular alcohol consumption all the time. It seems that our health depends on it.



vivian collings

## Editorial



A "Blue Monday" sunset in Head Lake Park. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

## 'Blah' remedy

"Sometimes at night, I just sniff the air." Hearing this, Monika knew she needed to know more. She and Carol were making their way along the road that wound past their houses and over the hill. It was a slushy walk under overcast skies, and Monika hoped the exercise would improve her mood.

She had a bad case of the January "blahs." And she knew there was still February to get through before there would be even a hint of respite from her least-favourite time of year.

Carol, on the other hand, was up-beat, striding along purposefully at a brisk pace while Monika had to push herself to keep up. Her mood was dragging her legs as well as her heart.

Every winter, Monika experienced this same listlessness, a vague kind of aimless negativity. It was the season. The darkness.

The cold. The swings between wind, slush and ice, with a helping of too much snow and too little sun.

Some days it seemed interminable, although her head reminded her winter was really only a couple of months long, and not the twelve it sometimes felt like.

As the two walked, they chatted about friends they knew, and how the world was going to hell in a hand basket. Well almost, noted Carol. Actually, she said there were still aspects of this time of year that she appreciated and enjoyed. "Like the night air?" queried Monika, wondering if Carol was taking some kind of special medication.

Then Carol pointed to the doe and two yearlings poised statue-still by a stand of cedars. The deer's faces were thick with winter coats as they turned their heads to watch the human animals passing by. Monika loved seeing animals outdoors, and the sight gave her a little lift. In the summer much was often hidden by the foliage that surrounded them but in winter, she was able to see right into the bush.

The cedars looked black against the overcast sky, and Monika knew there were probably chickadees nestled in

amongst all those fragrant branches. Her friend Jim was always giving her bits of information about the natural world that surrounded them. It might look dead or asleep in winter, but she knew there was still plenty of life out there.

The slushy snow grabbed a little at their feet as they walked past the old farmhouse, now partly collapsed.

Carol remarked how burdensome winter must have been for the early settlers, no air-tight wood stoves or electric lights for reading on the dark evenings.

This reminded Monika that when she got home, her own stove would need another log. She had a plentiful supply of firewood to get her through the season. Unlike some folks, she reminded herself.

Unexpectedly, the sun slid out from behind the clouds, and the snowy world was instantly transformed.

Black branches stood out against all the white and the sparkle of snow and sun brought a smile to both their faces. Monika could feel her mood shifting a bit. While she wasn't about to burst into joyous song, she realized there was much in her life she should never take for granted.

Then she asked Carol what she had meant about sniffing the night air. The reply surprised her. Carol said that whenever she felt confined or restless at this time of year, she opened her bedroom window a few inches, put her face down to the opening, and breathed in the fresh night air. It had a different smell and texture in the winter, she noted, and it made her think of all the wonderful things about where she lived.

No exhaust fumes, car horns or the hum of machines big and small that she always heard in the city.

Sometimes an owl would call from behind the house but mostly there was silence. Carol said if she was having a difficult day, all she had to do was open her window at night, and sniff. That seemed to put things into proper perspective.



sharon lynch

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# points of view

## Great moments in grocery shopping

**L**AST FRIDAY, I had a free afternoon, so I went grocery shopping. Normally, Jenn and I go to the grocery store together, but I think she thought it would be healthy for us to take a break from our date nights. Plus, she was working. So, I decided to go it alone. Partly because I wanted to take my time and ensure our next date night is more romantic than the last.

Fortunately, Jenn was with me in spirit. Unfortunately, it was a spirit that texted me a detailed list as well as instructions on what to watch for in terms of produce freshness. It's not that Jenn doesn't trust my shopping skills. It's more like she doesn't believe we can survive for two weeks on beef jerky, cream soda, and cherry-flavoured Nibs.

Even though I am living proof that you can, I followed her list carefully. This meant I had to alternate between checking my cell phone and apologizing for knocking over carefully stacked displays of cans.



steve  
galea

### Loon Tales

For the most part, the list made shopping easy. But one of the things on her list was not very specific. Jenn wrote that I should get her a "nice snack."

You would think that would mean "beef jerky," but she had already told me it didn't.

So, not knowing what to do, I bought her a can of cashews. And, frankly, I was kind of proud of choosing an item all by myself – just like a grown up.

As soon as I got to the car, I phoned Jenn to tell her about this.

"I think I got you something you'll like," I said.

"Oh, what?" she asked.

"Cashews," I said proudly.

"Cat shoes?" she yelped incredulously.

"No," I said, "cashews."

"Cat shoes?! What the..." she replied.

"No," I said, "ca-shews....ca-shews. You know, the nut."

"Oh," she replied. "That's great. Thanks."

An awkward silence then fell upon our conversation while we both took in what had occurred.

And, after about 15 seconds, I finally said what had to be said.

"Cat shoes?" I muttered. "Really?"

"Look, I thought you might have said cashews but I wasn't sure..." she replied.

"So you chose instead to believe that I bought you cat shoes?" I stated.

She said nothing.

"Because," I continued, "given the choice between a grocery store carrying cashews and cat shoes, you thought cat shoes was the most probable of the two? I mean every grocery store in the province carries cat shoes, right?"

"I mean it could have....," she began.

"Could have what?" I interrupted. "Could have been possible? Hmm? In what world could I approach a grocery store employee and say, 'Excuse me, where is the feline footwear department? I'm looking for two pairs of cat shoes in a size three-quarter for our kitty Mumbles. Preferably the kind with no laces, or he'll be playing with them all day.'"

"OK," she said laughing. "You are right. It was a silly thing to say."

For the record, this was the second time in our relationship I have been right. So, naturally, I had to write about it.

Having said that, you really can't blame Jenn for it either. After all, she grew up reading Puss and Boots.

In any case, we are still laughing about this. Better still she is enjoying the cashews.

Plus, we learned a lot about how misunderstandings occur in our relationship.

And we even discussed a few ways to avoid it.

For instance, from here on in, I will never phone her to let her know I bought catsup.



### pic of the past

**D**aniel Wesley (Wes) Otto (1893-1975), Haliburton, in his First World War army uniform, in 1917. Mr. Otto served overseas with the 21st Battalion, C.E.F. (Canadian Expeditionary Force). Mr. Otto was a trapper in town and also ran a local mail route. /This photo was given to the Haliburton Highlands Museum by Noel Austin of Haliburton

## September Kindergarten registration now open

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has opened registration for Kindergarten. The Board offers both Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs, where our youngest students discover how to learn cooperatively with others. At this age, play is an important way of learning. As children play, they are learning about the world and how it works, about other people, and about themselves.

Parents/guardians of children who are turning four in 2023 are to visit the Kindergarten Registration page on [tldsbc.ca](http://tldsbc.ca) to register. To find out which elementary school they will attend based on the home address, use the school locator.

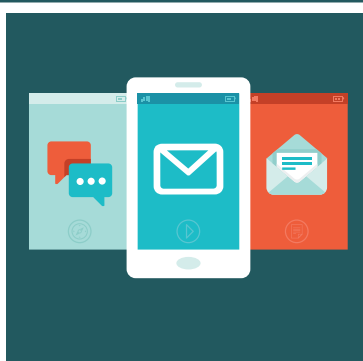
When registering, have the following items ready:

- Proof of age for each child
- Name and phone number for family doctor
- Ontario Health Card number (optional)
- Child's immunization record
- Residence road name and 911 address

September may seem like a far way away, but it's important for TLDSB to know how many students are enrolled so that staffing and spaces for the upcoming school year can be made. TLDSB asks all parents/guardians to register their child(ren) by the end of February.

If you have further questions, contact your child(ren)'s local elementary school.

Submitted by Trillium Lakelands District School Board



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to  
[vivian@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:vivian@haliburtonpress.com)

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



# Tradition continues for Haliburton Highlanders

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Pipes and drums have been heard echoing in the Haliburton Highlands for over 50 years, with local band members displaying the gold, red, blue, and green tartan. You can become part of that long-standing tradition.

The Haliburton Highlanders are accepting new members into their family of pipers and drummers, and no experience is necessary.

"Being a part of the band is the best part," said Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band manager Emily Stonehouse when asked what she enjoys most about playing the bagpipes. "Everyone supports everyone. We laugh, we joke, we play. We're always learning, and even though I've been playing a few years, there's still so much more to learn, and the band has supported every step."

Brian Sachs has been a member of the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums for 36 years.

The musician joined the band when he moved to Haliburton in 1986, and he said it continues to bring the same fulfillment to his life as when he started.

"The social part of it is huge. We've all become good friends because we get to see each other each week. We talk as much as we practice," Sachs laughed.

In addition to creating connections with each other, getting to play in the community allows for band members to see people at their high and low points.

"It's brought an immense opportunity for connections in the community," said Stonehouse. "When you tell people you play the bagpipes, it always sparks a conversation."

She said playing for former pipe major Earl Cooper's funeral was one of her first performances and an experience she will always remember.

"The community gathered to share sadness and mourn," Stonehouse said. "I've also piped at weddings, including my own. The bagpipes are for celebration; beginnings, endings, and everything in between."

Bagpipes can evoke strong emotions in all that hear and play them. Stonehouse said having the opportunity to allow people to feel highs and lows through music is fulfilling.

Sachs remembered his first experience hearing bagpipes as a child very well.

"I was sitting on the curb in Listowel during a parade. I just remember seeing these pipers come down the road, and I didn't think they were people. It was the first time I had ever seen them. I was so taken aback by them. I think that's where I was hooked," said the long-time member.

Sachs said he sees the same awe on the faces of children as the Haliburton Highlanders march in parades.

"It's funny because I see eyes light up as we come down the street, particularly in the really young kids."

Sachs said all you need to have to play in the band is enthusiasm to play and a bit of physical strength.

"If you have the desire to learn to play the pipes or the drums, we'll help you become a piper or drummer, but you need to have strong enthusiasm. It may take a few years before you are ready to play in public," he said.

Stonehouse added that bagpipes are a difficult instrument to learn, but the experience of learning to play is just as enjoyable as being able to play full songs.

"It's a challenging instrument, but one that you can see the improvements with



Robbie Burns attendees learn a new dance on Saturday, Jan. 21. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Charlie Grohnwald from Mansfield School of Highland Dance performs.



The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums headed the Robbie Burns festivities on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129. The band hopes to be able to have a larger celebration to invite the public to the event next year.

when you actually practice. Probably a good metaphor for anything in life," Stonehouse said.

## Band history

The band and a few lucky community members recently had the opportunity to experience a Robbie Burns supper at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, Jan. 21 after missing a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet born on Jan. 25, 1759. Traditionally, Robbie Burns dinners are hosted on his birthday and feature Scottish food, music, and dancing.

Eleanor Cooper said she has been attending Robbie Burns suppers in Haliburton since they began when her husband, Earl Cooper, was the pipe major.

The band was formed in the summer of 1969 by Don Johnston, Earl Cooper, and Don Wright. The original band consisted of 10 students around Grade 8 or Grade 9 and five adults.

Their first performance was on Nov. 30, 1970 for Saint Andrew's Day.

They played in their first parade on Apr. 30, 1972 and led the Ladies Auxiliary from the Haliburton Legion to the Haliburton cenotaph.

"The band knew two tunes at the time

and played one after the other, back to back," Sachs said.

Both Don Johnston and Earl Cooper have since passed, but their legacy is woven into the wool of the tartan worn by today's Haliburton Highlanders.

Approximately 100 people have been members of the band over the past 52 years.

Originally, the band was called the Haliburton Legion Pipes and Drums. At that time, almost each Legion had a band, but now they are "few and far between," Sachs said.

They took on their current name around 1995 and began managing themselves.

The present band has 14 members: eight pipers, five drummers, and one administrator. They attend five to seven parades each year and practice once a week in the main hall of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 from 7 to 9 p.m.

In the summer, they practice at the town docks in Haliburton.

"Senior members of the band will teach and instruct, provide all equipment and instruments needed, and we encourage and cheer on our recruits," Sachs said.

There is no cost to band members, and all ages are welcome to join.

"All we ask is that you give it an honest

“

*The bagpipes are for celebration; beginnings, endings, and everything in between.”*

— Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band manager Emily Stonehouse

effort. Our senior piper in the band, Jim Thomson, started learning the pipes at age seven in Scotland. We are certainly not opposed to having somebody that young, and we also are not opposed to having somebody 70 years of age, as long as they are realistic about what they are able to do," he said.

If you have an interest in joining the band or have any questions, reach out to pipe major Andrew Mansfield at 613-318-9037 or Brian Sachs at 705-457-3640.

"I'm excited to see what else the band can do together with more members," said Stonehouse.





Forward Josh Currie recently joined the Haliburton Huskies. /Submitted



Former Ottawa 67s and Windsor Spitfire player Thomas Johnston recently joined the Haliburton Huskies as a forward. /Submitted

# Huskies Welcome new faces and push for playoffs

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies are currently sitting second in the South/East conference and third overall in the OJHL. Starting the new year with a record of 2-2-0-0, the Huskies have been making a push to try and catch Tyler Fukakusa and the Toronto Jr. Canadiens.

In order to make this push to the top of the standings, the Huskies have welcomed two key additions to their forward core. 20-year-old Josh Currie has joined the Huskies from the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs, the Pickering, Ontario forward has 17 goals in four seasons in the zero spanning across three different teams.

Joining Currie on the Huskies is former Windsor Spitfire Thomas Johnston.

The 19-year-old from Oshawa, Ontario spent four seasons in the OHL splitting time between the Spitfires and 67s. In his time there, he logged 18 goals with a breakout 15 goal season in 2021-22.

With all the acquisitions, the Huskies have parted ways with Nathan Duplessis. Duplessis has four goals in 32 games this season with the Huskies, and will now suit up with the GOJHL's Caledonia Corvairs.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, the Huskies trav-

elled to the Lehigh Arena to take on their bitter rivals the Wellington Dukes. With the Dukes chasing the Huskies in the standings, this was a must win for the boys in blue. The Huskies came into the game with a seven points cushion, however, the Dukes had two games in hand.

After a scoreless first period left both teams fired up, the Dukes got to work. Jacob Vreugdenhill ripped his 19th of the season to break the deadlock on the Powerplay. Less than a minute later, the Dukes doubled their lead coming off a goal from Ryan Cutler. Before the period was up, the Huskies stopped the bleeding with Leo Serlin getting the team amped and ready to go. The energy was great for the team, as in the span of 45 seconds the Huskies managed to tie the game with AP player Ben Hofstetter logging his first as a Husky.

The period ended with Lucas LaPalm reclaiming the Dukes lead.

With an all-important two points on the line the Huskies needed a tying goal; Jack Staniland delivered. Tying the game and making it an all-out free for all to see who will win. However, try as the Huskies may LaPalm added his second of the game with four minutes to go sealing the victory for the Dukes.

The Huskies finished the game with 38 shots on goal, one more than their opposition, and goalie Aiden Spooner finished with 33 saves on 37 shots.



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Eleanor Hall	Don Hall	Brenda & Joe Rich	The Dawsons	Margaret Schepers	First Responders
Wayne Bilick	Barney Dzikowicz	Donald Montgomery	Grant & Elsie Montgomery	Judy Hardy	Keith Hardy
Marjorie Hallam	John Hallam	Greta Lariviere	Lisa Tompkins	Margaret Small	Bill Small
Roy Clark	Linda Clark	Greta Lariviere	Trevor Sheryer	Joan Willhelm	Barry Willhelm
Doug & Carol Bowers	Hospital Emerg	Shari Stein	Dr. David D. Etlin	Lynda Litwin	Ed Litwin
Ruby Horvath	the Horvath Family	Beatrice Murphy	Edward (Ted) Murphy	Dwight Thomas	Madeleine Thomas
Ruth Wruth	Murray Wruth	Carole Leu	Melissa Coles	Sybil Roodenburg	Barbara & Ed Braithwaitea
Pauline Ashcroft	Peggy & Arnold Hunter	Elizabeth Sharpe	Joan & Eddie Farne		
Bruce Delazzer	Jean Freeman	Elizabeth Sharpe	William 'Tim' Sharpe		



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59					60				61		
62					63				64		

- CLUES ACROSS

  - 1. Functions
  - 5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
  - 8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
  - 11. Secret political clique
  - 13. Type of gibbon
  - 14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
  - 15. Famed American playwright
  - 16. Mesopotamian goddess
  - 17. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
  - 18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
  - 20. A place to stay
  - 21. Actor Idris
  - 22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
  - 25. A way to measure movement
  - 30. Distinguish oneself
  - 31. Type of drug (abbr.)
  - 32. Basketball great Baylor
  - 33. Masses of salivary matter
  - 38. Calls balls and strikes
  - 41. Plant that grows along the ground
  - 43. A recreational activity in the air
  - 45. Consumes too much
  - 47. Island nation
  - 49. Pistol
  - 50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
  - 55. Ancient Greek City
  - 56. Similar
  - 57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
  - 59. Semitic fertility god
  - 60. Born of
  - 61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
  - 62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
  - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 64. " \_\_ the Man' Musical, baseball player
- 2. Discount
  - 3. Partner to "flows"
  - 4. Ethnic group of Laos
  - 5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character
  - 6. Book of tickets
  - 7. The last name of "Hermione"
  - 8. Type of TV package
  - 9. Helps to heal a cut
  - 10. Town in Galilee
  - 12. Actor Horsley
  - 14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
  - 19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
  - 23. They respond when someone is sick
  - 24. Emerged
  - 25. Midway between south and southeast
  - 26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
  - 27. Unit of work or energy
  - 28. Indicates near
  - 29. Famed river
  - 34. For each
  - 35. News organization
  - 36. CNN's founder
  - 37. They \_\_
  - 39. Areas off to the side
  - 40. Satisfies
  - 41. A spare bed
  - 42. Legendary singer Diana
  - 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
  - 45. A kind of sorcery
  - 46. River in South Africa
  - 47. Philippine Island
  - 48. County in China
  - 51. S. American plant
  - 52. Beverage containers
  - 53. Edge
  - 54. Protein-rich liquids
  - 58. Moved quickly on foot

CLUES DOWN  
1. Fiddler crabs

Answers on page 14



The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School ski team attended their first meet, the Kawartha Invitational, on Wednesday, Jan. 18 in Peterborough. /Submitted

# Haliburton students take first strides of the season

KAREN GERVAIS

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Nordic ski team was finally able to make it to their first meet on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at Kawartha Nordic Ski Club - and with great results! After several years of not fielding a team and almost getting a season going last year, but losing one meet to transportation cancellations and the rest being shut down due to the pandemic, our arrival at competition was long overdue.

It was looking like this year was going to be a repeat of last year with the first meet canceled due to the lack of snow altogether in early January. And the fate of the next competition hinged precariously on the weather warnings citing freezing drizzle. But things were thankfully a go at Kawartha Nordic, and the athletes were finally able to make it to their first long-awaited official high school competition.

And the results were worth the wait. In the high school junior girls division, Violet Humphries swept first place in the five kilometre race, followed by teammates Erika Hoare in second and Ella Gervais in fifth. In Senior Girls, Olivia Humphries was the first High School division skier to cross the line. Olivia completed the seven kilometre senior course with a very competitive time of 25:29.

OFSA-sanctioned Nordic skiing competition is tiered to allow for athletes racing for their high school to compete separately than skiers who are regularly training and racing for a competitive club. These skiers compete in the Open division rather than the High School tier. There is also a novice category for skiers in their first year of racing, regardless of age. The novice skiers compete on a three kilometres course.

Of our novice skiers, Olivia Gruppe led the pack with a second-place finish in a field of 27 skiers. Grace Allder was behind her in third. Skiers Teagan Hamilton and Hannah Sharp, who are experienced on the downhill slopes, but just donned their cross-country gear for the first time this season, finished in sixth and ninth place in their first race.

Haiden Bird, another very fresh skier but veteran cross-country runner, made up for in heart what he was lacking in

technique. Bird made it around the three kilometres course with his unique double-pole/run style to finish eighth in his division in a field of 17 skiers.

The afternoon featured some fun mixed sprint relays. Our novice team of Grace, Hannah, Teagan and Haiden was once again tops in their race and the Junior Girls team of Violet, Ella, Erika and Olivia Gruppe finished fourth. Olivia Humphries, skiing two laps in the relay, joined up with sibling Tristan Humphries and Elementary skier Winston Ramsdale to ski to a strong third-place finish in the 4x900 metre sprint relay.

Winston and Tristan were the only skiers in the Elementary Boys division and finished first and second respectively. Their times on the three kilometre course would have put them in the top rankings of the high school novice boys division.

Part of the team's success in addition to their hard work and commitment, has been due to the amazing support of our team of coaches, which includes community volunteers Joleen Thomas and Kevin Hoare as well as high school staff Mike Rieger and Karen Gervais. Many skiers have also been involved in our local Jackrabbit developmental program and our team in lucky to have premier Nordic ski trails in such close proximity to the high school. They are grateful for the help of the Haliburton Nordic club volunteers, especially Mike Darlington and his groom team who have been fantastic in making sure the trails are safe for the skiers.

The team is on break for exams, but looks forward to their next competition at the Pre-OFSA Lakefield Invitational meet on Feb. 8, followed by COSSA on Feb. 15 again at Kawartha Nordic.

Skiers Olivia Gruppe and Grace Allder, and maybe some others, are looking to up their game and enter in the three kilometre high school junior girls race in the hopes of creating a strong and competitive team challenged for a spot at the OFSAA meet in Lakefield on Feb. 23 and 24. A team consists of five skiers, where the top four across the line are scored. The individual race finishes are combined with the team result in the 4x900m sprint relay.

The full results from the Kawartha Invitational Meet can be found on Zone 4: [zone4.ca/race/2023-01-18/f44ca93a/results](http://zone4.ca/race/2023-01-18/f44ca93a/results).



# Gelert resident offers aquatic sessions

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Audrey Collins is making a splash in Gelert. Collins, an aquatic therapist originally from Quebec, has settled in the Haliburton Highlands, and is offering sessions at her pool for individuals suffering from the effect of strokes, neurological disorders, and accidents that result in chronic pain.

"It was now or never to put this dream into place," Collins told the *Echo*, when alluding to her decision to build the pool on her property, "and the reward has been to see the quality of life come back to people."

Collins grew up in Quebec, but spent her summers attending Camp Kilcoo in Minden, in an effort to learn the English language. It was here that she met her husband, and fell in love with the area and the people. She grew up studying physical rehab therapy, but was always drawn to one-on-one lessons with people in aquatics.

Collins continued to hone in on her skills through a variety of courses, before being offered the opportunity to become internationally certified in aquatics therapy in Switzerland. "Those were long days, and it was an intense program, but once I was finished, I returned to Canada, and there are only two Canadians with this title," she said. On top of being an aquatic therapist, Collins is also a physiotherapist assistant, and a healing waters instructor.

The prestigious training and natural dedication to aquatic programming led Collins to a series of studies and positions with Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.



Audrey Collins of Audrey's Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation has opened up a pool on her own property to assist individuals struggling with chronic pain, stroke recovery, and neurological disorders. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Here, she was able to contribute her skills to the development of significant research in regards to spinal injuries, as well as the effects of water therapy on stroke victims.

She started offering one-on-one sessions to clients in the Peterborough and Lindsay areas, before COVID-19 hit, and the public pools were closed down. It was at this point in her journey that she and her husband decided to follow their dream of offering sessions right at their home. "It's a different type of medical attention," Collins said. "When clients arrive, they come to my home, I am in my bathing suit and so are they, we can all feel vulnerable and human, and on the same level in treatment."

Collins reflected on the success she has found with this type of treatment on individuals. She shared with the *Echo* that she had one client who had suffered a stroke

many years ago, and was experiencing debilitating pain with movement. Collins invited the client's husband to join them in the pool, and showed him a series of safe exercises to help his wife in her healing journey. "At the end of the session, I asked them if they wanted to dance together," Collins said. "It was the first time they were able to stand face-to-face since the stroke, and be able to see one another standing up. There were tears for everyone."

She shared that there are other clients she works with, who struggle with neu-

rological disorders such as Parkinson's. "I have one client who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's for 5 years, yet he is showing no effects of the disease. His doctors believe it is because he's in the pool every week," she said. Collins also hopes to start working on some group therapy programs for individuals with chronic pain, as well as pre and post natal classes, and therapeutic aqua yoga, focusing on relaxation and balance.

Collins noted that the water is a unique environment, and believes that it levels the playing field in healing due to the freedom it offers. "It's the only place where some people can do certain things," she said. "When they can move freely again, and feel themselves again, they can see a light at the end of the tunnel in healing."

Audrey's Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation is partnered with Haliburton County Chiropractic and Rehabilitation, based in Minden. Together, they work with clients to offer a patient-centred approach to healthcare, and provide clients with support and techniques dedicated to feeling healthy, safe, and empowered.

"When you can offer people quality of life, to me, that's the real paycheck, seeing how people's lives can change," said Collins. You can find more information on the programs Collins offers at [www.haliburtoncountychiropractic.com](http://www.haliburtoncountychiropractic.com)



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**vs Burlington Cougars**

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## Municipality of Dysart et al

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Website: [www.dysartetal.ca](http://www.dysartetal.ca)

### NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

**DATE:**  
**TIME:**  
**LOCATION:**

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023  
11:00 am.

The Committee of Adjustment will be held as an electronic meeting only. The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

#### APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2022-011 Powell

• The following variance is requested to permit construction of a shed on a property in the WR4 zone:

a) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a shed to have a minimum exterior side lot line set back of 3 metres (10 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 7.5 metres (24.61 feet);

b) A variance to section 3.30 to permit a shed to have a minimum street setback of 8.5 metres (28 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 17.5 metres (57.4 feet).

• Location: Part Lot 15, Concession 7, Part Lots 25 and 26, Plan 362, Parts 7,8,10 & 12, Plan 19R-8269 in the Geographic Township of Harburn, in the Municipality of Dysart et al (Curry Rd).

Council passed By-law 2020-69 to amend the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-law to permit electronic participation in meetings. **There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at [dvibert@dysartetal.ca](mailto:dvibert@dysartetal.ca).

**ANY PERSON** is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her view's about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. **The Committee will accept oral and written submissions. A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Danielle Vibert  
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of  
Adjustment



# What's happening at Point in Time?

## Update on services and supports

We are continuing to offer mental health and counselling supports through a number of ways: in person at our offices or the Youth Hub, virtually via zoom or by phone. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and appointments are available as needed after hours as well.

We offer Quick Access Clinics where individuals or families can be seen quickly by calling 705-457-5345 or texting 705-854-0576 to set up an appointment.

We are open for crisis calls from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and work with another agency, 310 COPE, to provide after hours coverage. We work together to ensure there is around-the-clock crisis supports. For after hours crisis support, please call or text 310-COPE at 1-855-310-2673.

## Early Intervention update

Mother Goose and Infant Massage at the Early ON Centre is coming back soon! Check our website and Facebook page for updates.

We are continuing to support children and families with special needs through individualized supports. A child does not require a diagnosis to access Early Intervention services. You can contact Point in Time staff at (705) 457-5345 to book a Quick Access appointment.

## Youth Hub update

Staff continue to see youth face to face, by phone, in the community or via or Zoom for scheduled appointments. Our nurse practitioner, counselling, peer support, IPS worker, and care co-ordinator are available for face to face meetings at the Hub.

Youth who need space to do homework or just get out and relax are encouraged to text or call to connect with someone at the Hub. Exam prep drop-in will be offered after school on Jan. 17 and 19. Check out our calendar on Instagram @Haliburtonyouthhub to keep up to date on all of our drop-in activities and mobile share and care.

## Welcome new staff

Point in Time welcomes to the team Randi Cooper,

driver for Point in Time and the Youth Wellness Hub; Kalyna Thurlbeck, child, youth, and family therapist; and Jenn McGovern, family support worker.

## Indigenous peer navigator

Ashley Wilson is the Indigenous peer navigator at Point in Time. She provides both one on one peer support and community outreach to Indigenous youth and/or their families in the community. Ashley is also available to provide peer support to fellow colleagues in their roles who may also be supporting clients who identify as indigenous. Ashley will be offering land based teachings as well as textile arts focusing on the medicine wheel framework in the New Year at the Youth Hub. You can reach her at 705-854-1649.

## Chamber Gala Awards

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub recently won Not-for-Profit of the Year along with Canoe FM at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber Gala! Point in Time also won the Haliburton County Warden's award. Congratulations to our dedicated staff and board members, and thank you to the Chamber and community for the nomination and awards. Thank you for the holiday donations.

Staff and board members at Point in Time sincerely thank community members and agency partners that helped contribute to creating lasting memories for many families in our area this past holiday season. Your generous donations are always appreciated!

Submitted by Point in Time

# Reflecting on past Burns Nights

community news  
west guilford

Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

Congratulations to Owen Nicholls whose curling team had won all six of their games in the Canada Winter Games trials. To emphasize their win, the team won the U18 provincial championship on Jan 15. Owen looks forward now to going to Prince Edward Island to the Canada Winter Games. All the best from the community to all these local athletes.

Following on such good news we have to express condolences to Dale (Barry) Toye in the loss of her husband, Wayne on Dec. 15. What sadness for all concerned especially in the midst of what should be a time of joyous celebration. Another loss is Brian Barry son of Eileen and Carl and husband of Anna, and sympathy is extended to her and all the family.

Burns Night: What a contrast to that of 40 years ago.

Then I made the short bread. I got in touch with who was providing the entertainment besides the pipe band, was part of the set of eight for the Scottish Country dances, and oh yes, made sure my own pipers had all their regalia in place. Now, I have only to make sure my tartan skirt still fits, accept the transportation offered, and go to enjoy the event. I enjoy the change, but how I miss Earl and the boys in the band numbers. It's a source of pride to know that youngest son, Andy, in Duncan is hosting his own Burns night there with the welcome addition of oldest one George who just happens to be in B.C. for two weeks. Another difference is the weather. I'm grateful for the unusual temperature now rather than the -20 degrees Celsius which always made me shudder with cold to end the otherwise pleasant evening. So many of the old regulars are gone now: Mary Packard who made the haggis and occasionally saluted Burns in the immortal memory, Don Johnson, Jean and Don Clark, our instructor for Scottish Country dancers which included Dorothy Robertson and Mimi and Ted Carson. So many changes! Thanks to the present band under Andrew Mansfield for pulling it all together again.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

N	A	T	S			R	S	S		H	N	U
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## Canadian Parents for French host skating

Fun was had by all that attended public skating at the AJ LaRue Arena on Sunday, Jan. 22. The event was sponsored by Canadian Parents for French, a volunteer organization devoted to creating French as a second language opportunities. /Photo submitted



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the 2023 Studio Tour. To apply: Visit [haliburtontourdeforest.com](http://haliburtontourdeforest.com) Email:  
[toudeforest2023@gmail.com](mailto:toudeforest2023@gmail.com) Or call Tom Green at 705-286-3628 Deadline is  
February 10, 2023

**Haliburton County Fair Annual General Meeting** Saturday January 28th 2023  
1:00 p.m. Being held at Highland Hills United Church 21 Newcastle St Minden  
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## 650 OBITUARIES



**Donald Cameron**  
(Resident of Haliburton)

With heavy hearts, we wish to share the sad news that Don Cameron passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January - 17 2023 in the Haliburton Hospital. Loved and cherished by his wife Joan, daughter Cheryl (Vaughan Rowan), sons Sandy (Kim Ireland) & Scott (Susan), sister-in-law Debora Cameron,

grandchildren, Kate Cameron, Carolyn Cameron (Frank Gallo), Kristin Cameron (Drake Fenton), Ben & Nicole Rowan, Bianca & Colin Axenfeld, great-grandchildren Adelyn Rowan & Jensen Rowan. Loved by many nieces and nephews who will miss him greatly. Don played a key role in the founding of a community radio station Canoe FM 100.9 in Haliburton. Don loved Haliburton and spent many happy hours and years at the Haliburton Curling Club (both as a curler, and as a trained volunteer bartender), at the cottage on Redstone lake, fishing, swimming, skiing, snowmobiling, making maple syrup, playing his keyboard, and working in his woodshop. Don and Joan have been members and volunteers at Haliburton's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 for over 30 years, and they volunteered their services there when they were able.

### A Private Family Remembrance Gathering

A Private Family Remembrance Gathering will be held. For those friends wishing to join the family virtually, please join us on Saturday afternoon, January 28th, 2023 at 2 o'clock by following the enclosed link. <https://join.skype.com/dtdJTicAiwnL> As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:

PLAYING WITH RETIREMENT  
With time on his hands Michael Fay writes  
a play about war set in the Highlands

IN THE PLAYOFFS  
Red Hawk and Storm teams rise through  
the ranks as playoffs begin

LET'S GET MUSHY  
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readers share Valentine wishes

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## New Year's Baby Arrives!



DARREN LUM/Echo

Haliburton Hospital's New Year's Baby always takes a bit of time to arrive and little Dylan Keefer was no exception. Despite the best efforts of his mother, Monica Miles, Dylan waited until February 5 to be introduced to the world by his new family, including his brother Ethan and his father Tim Keefer. His story is on page 4.

## GST rebate fills local gov't coffers

SHERYL LOUCKS  
Staff Reporter

Seven per cent does not sound like much but the federal government's move to appease municipalities by refunding 100 per cent of GST will put more than \$400,000 back into local government coffers.

In Prime Minister Paul Martin's speech from the throne, Martin offered municipalities and cities a "new deal."

In the past, municipalities were able to claim 57.4 per cent of the General Sales Tax paid on anything purchased. The program is an administrative nightmare, say local clerks and financial officers who have to cobble together hundreds of receipts and to calculate the percentage of rebate they are eligible for. It would be far simpler and less time-consuming to simply exempt municipalities from paying GST, they say.

The federal government now agrees with them.

Local MP John O'Reilly says Martin's speech set out goals and payments that will "strengthen our social foundations, build a truly 21st Century economy and ensure that Canada's voice in the world is one of pride and influence."

Martin's new deal, says

See **Dysart** page 6

## Local guitarist off to L.A. with Fefe Dobson

IZABELA JAROSZYNSKI  
Staff Reporter

Local musician Ryan Chalmers is going to have the best Valentine's Day of his life. Instead of spending it with just one special person, Chalmers will be sharing the day with almost 60,000 screaming fans.

As the new guitarist for Fefe Dobson's band, the Haliburton native will be performing live during the NBA All-star game in Los Angeles this weekend.

This is the first major gig for the 19-year-old who, over the years, has organized local concerts in the Haliburton and Minden arenas as well as the Canarvon bowling alley.

"They used to have a couple of hundred kids in attendance," his mom Julie says of the concerts. "He would arrange to have other bands from the area come and play as well."

Chalmers took up playing guitar at the age of five and always showed a huge degree of musical talent, she said, adding that he is "full of music."

And now that he is playing his first major performance, his mom is both "scared and excited."

Chalmers' big break came thanks to another local success story, talent agent April Hopps, who once lived in Minden with her parents, John and Trish Aggett.

"I got a call from Dobson's agent. They were trying to find a new guitarist. Ryan's name just

popped into my head," she said. "To have our first major booking come out of the Haliburton area excites me. That's why I went into this business, to help good, talented people like Ryan succeed."

Hopps left Minden in 2001 to pursue her dream of running a talent agency. Along with partner Nick Shahrabadi, she now runs Diverse Management Group, a talent agency that "represents artists of all shapes and sizes".

She hopes that Chalmers' story will give hope to local musicians. "There is a lot of musical talent coming out of the area," she said. "Just because you come from a small town doesn't mean you won't get noticed. Get out there and show your craft."

The band is scheduled to hit the stage at 1:30 p.m. on February 14. Some three million people are expected to tune in.



Ryan Chalmers competed against 400 other guitarists to join Dobson's band.

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Linda’s team kept us informed throughout the sale process with regular updates. All matters were handled in a professional and timely manner. We would highly recommend this team for any real estate needs in the Haliburton area.

-Ron Cuomo

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